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ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 101152Z APR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2757  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 1912  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1907  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2030  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0598  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1307  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1664  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2086  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4517  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1162  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC//DHO-7//  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOOC/ECMO/CC/DAO/DOB/DOI//  
RUZEHAA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ23-CH/ECJ5M//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000314

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NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN  
USAID FOR L.DOBBS AND E. LOKEN  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/10/2018  
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [KDEM](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT: POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE SURGES

REF: HARARE 00296

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JAMES D. MCGEE FOR REASONS 1.4 (B & D)

11. (C) SUMMARY: In the past week, ZANU-PF has stepped-up a post-election campaign of retaliatory violence and intimidation throughout the country. Security forces and ardent ZANU-PF supporters, mainly war veterans and youth militia -- some armed with weapons -- have targeted opposition party organizers, polling agents and supporters as well as election officials and local election observers in their homes and on the streets. In a sign that this is a systematic campaign, many victims reported that these mobs had lists of names of targets. There also has been a new wave of commercial farm invasions resulting in evictions and violence in recent days. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) Fidelis Mudimu, program director at Counseling Services Unit (CSU), a local NGO that provides medical services to victims of state-sponsored violence, told us on April 9 that CSU had recorded more than 60 cases of violence since March 29 -- with 38 new cases since April 7. All cases were perpetrated by ZANU-PF supporters (war veterans and youth) and the Zimbabwe Republic Police. Most cases involved physical assaults resulting in minor injuries. There were four victims that required hospitalization. Many victims reported their assailants said they were being punished for "voting incorrectly" and that in the next round of voting there would be no mistakes. CSU also was attempting to confirm reports that two opposition supporters had been killed in an attack by ZANU-PF supporters in Mashonaland East province.

13. (C) In the past three days, the following were among the cases CSU recorded:

-- Four MDC polling agents were treated by a CSU doctor in Nyanga in the Manicaland province after being attacked by a group of ZANU-PF supporters;

-- Five MDC supporters attacked by ZANU-PF supporters were treated by a CSU doctor in Chinoyi in the Mashonaland West province;

-- Eleven victims from commercial farm invasions in Beatrice in the Mashonaland East province were treated at CSU Harare;

-- Several opposition supporters were summoned by a village headman to his homestead in Mutoko in the Mashonaland East province where they were attacked by suspected state security agents.

¶4. (C) Jestina Mukoko, director of Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), a local NGO that monitors political violence and human rights abuses, told us that the military and war veterans were targeting local election observers for violence in rural areas that were previously ZANU-PF controlled but that had voted for the opposition in this election. For instance, a ZPP provincial coordinator in Midlands province reported that soldiers were beating up citizens in a shopping center in Mkoba for "not voting correctly."

¶5. (C) In addition to the 45 white-owned commercial farms placed under siege in Mashonaland and Masvingo provinces since April 5 (reftel), Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) Trevor Gifford reported to us on April 10 that new farm invasions had begun in Manicaland (including his own farm), Matabeleland, and Midlands provinces in the past two days. Police were reacting to disburse the mobs gathered on the property, but after the police leave the farms get re-invaded within five to six hours. Gifford estimated that 30 farmers

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had now abandoned their farms completely, with the rest in various stages of holding out or packing up. There have been reports of violence and altercations. Additionally, numerous farm houses have been looted and vandalized.

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COMMENT  
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¶6. (C) The situation remains tense as the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) continues to stall in releasing results from the presidential election. In the meantime, reports that security forces, war veterans, and youth militia are moving around the country punishing vocal opposition supporters, ZEC election officials, local election observers, and lax ZANU-PF supporters is intensifying a climate of fear and instability.  
END COMMENT.

MCGEE